(c) the amount of tax collections during the first three quarters during the current financial year *vis-a-vis* the figures for the last two years during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) As regards Income Tax surveys, no instructions have been issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to increase the number of surveys. Regarding returns to be taken up for scrutiny, guidelines for selection of cases for scrutiny are issued by CBDT every year and this has been similarly done this year as well. The norms for selection of cases for scrutiny vary from year to year, resulting in smaller or larger number of cases selected under scrutiny depending upon the norms for selection adopted.

(c) The amount of tax collections during the first three quarters during the current financial year *vis-a-vis* the figures for the last two years during the same period are as under:—

(Rs. in Crores)

	Amount
Upto Dec., 2002	53498.81
Upto Dec., 2001	44407.99
Upto Dec., 2000	44686.02

Commutation of Pension to Government Servants

681. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifth Central Pay Commission recommended a new formula for the commutation of pension to the Government servants retiring on or after 1st January, 1996 and gave them a higher benefit;

(b) if so, the total increase in Government's liability as a result thereof;

(c) whether this formula was extended to pensioners who retired before 1st January, 1996 to whom other pensionary benefits were made applicable;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether it is proposed to extend the same now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The 5th CPC had recommended enhancement in the amount of commutation from one third to 40% of pension. This recommendation of the Pay Commission was accepted by the Government.

(b) No centralised data is compiled as the disbursement of pension is completely decentralised.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The recommendations of Fifth Central Pay Commission are effective from 01.01.1996.

(e) No, Sir.

Infrastructure finance

682. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have initiated a dialogue with banks to give a big push to infrastructure financing in the country, which is seen as being crucial in achieving a growth rate of 9 per cent; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of these discussions and the steps taken to facilitate the banks to provide credit to infrastructure projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) In view of the critical importance of the infrastructure sector and high priority being accorded for development of various infrastructure services, an In-house group was constituted in the Reserve Bank of India for examining the issues involved.

(b) The Reserve Bank of India has issued the 'Guidelines on Infrastructure Financing' on 4.2.2003, based on recommendation of the group and suggestions of banks.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.